



Freedom Network USA

Senate HELP Committee Members
VIA EMAIL

January 6, 2017

Re: HHS Secretary Nominee Representative Tom Price Confirmation Hearing Concerns
and Questions from Anti-Trafficking Freedom Network USA

Dear Senators:

The Freedom Network USA (“FNUSA”), founded in 2001 following the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (“TVPA”), is comprised of 40 non-governmental organizations and 12 individuals that serve and/or advocate for justice and services to human trafficking victim-survivors. Our members are in 19 states and 33 cities and members work with an extensive network of non-member organizations in all 50 states. FNUSA integrates a human-rights based approach in all of our work with trafficking victim-survivors and our members work to ensure all survivors receive the full range of services they need to recover and thrive. Accordingly, FNUSA is uniquely qualified to speak to the real life challenges trafficked persons experience in the United States.

The 3Ps of prevention, protection, and prosecution form the cornerstones of the TVPA implementation and enforcement. The President elect’s nominee for HHS Secretary, Representative Tom Price, would have key responsibilities for the implementation of this multi-front approach to tackling the scourge of human trafficking and thwarting would-be traffickers who hope to profit from trafficking in the United States. Toward this end, we respectfully request that the following concerns and questions be posed to Representative Price during his confirmation hearings:

1. Are you committed to the vigorous implementation of the TVPA including the prevention of human trafficking and holistic protection of victims-survivors?
2. The TVPA defines human trafficking to include both trafficking for labor and for commercial sex. Freedom Network USA members have identified and served US Citizen and foreign national survivors of both labor and sex trafficking, youths and adults. However, the recent changes to the child welfare program includes the identification and protection of sex trafficking victims only. Do you support the identification and protection of labor trafficking victims that are within the child welfare system?

3. Resulting from the Freedom Network USA's collective over two decades of direct experience as prosecutors, service providers, immigration and civil attorneys, we know and urge a victim informed approach in all human trafficking cases. We also know that the civil society service providers provide essential services for victims and they must also be funded to make the anti-trafficking efforts successful. Will you as HHS Secretary support a victim-centered approach to human trafficking? Will you also support the continue funding for essential services necessary to protect victims and facilitate prosecutions?
4. As demonstrated by the 2016 Ohio case in which children were forced to work on egg farms in Ohio (<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-defendants-sentenced-role-forced-labor-scheme-exploited-guatemalan-minors-ohio-egg-farms>), we know that unaccompanied immigrant minors are especially vulnerable to trafficking. As HHS Secretary will you continue to support comprehensive programs that provide follow up services to ensure the protection of immigrant youth?
5. Trafficking victims, survivors of both labor and sex trafficking, both US citizens and foreign nationals, youth and adults, have suffered a variety of threats and harms. Many have been isolated from friends and family, they have been physically and sexually assaulted, and denied access to food and medical care. These harms cause myriad consequences, both short and long term. Will you ensure that trafficking survivors served by HHS-funded programs are given access to the full range of dental, medical and mental health care that they need to fully recover from their abuse? Including the full range of legal reproductive health care?

Thank you for your consideration of these questions. Please contact Jean Bruggeman at jean@freedomnetworkusa.org with any questions or for more information.

Sincerely,



Jean Bruggeman
Executive Director
Freedom Network USA